



Springfield-Greene County
Health Department
Helping people live longer, healthier, happier lives

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From the Office of the Director of Health

Building Blocks Program Celebrates First Birthday

The health department's Building Blocks program celebrates early success with a birthday party extravaganza for its clients. The Nurse Family Partnership program that helps first-time mothers develop strong parenting skills and build resilient families will be one year old in September.

"This is a fun way for us to celebrate with our clients and encourage them to continue making great life choices," says program supervisor Teresa Casey, RNC. "These moms have committed a great deal of time learning great parenting skills and how to strengthen their families in order to make a better life for their child. We are thrilled with their success."

The birthday party is being held in conjunction with Baby Safety Awareness Month and will offer clients education on poison, choking, electrical and fall hazards, as well as fire prevention and crib safety. Clients will also enjoy gifts, food and fun.

The three-year Building Blocks program is funded through the Safe Schools Healthy Students federal grant focused on addressing the causes of youth violence and substance abuse through partnerships with community health, justice and educational organizations.

"Research shows that early pregnancy is a prime window of opportunity for a young woman to make changes in her life," adds Casey. "This is the perfect time to introduce healthy lifestyle choices that could affect the prenatal outcome, encourage participants to continue their education to improve their career and earning possibilities, and build support networks that will remain long after their graduation from Building Blocks. Based on Dr. Olds research and longitudinal studies, we will not only affect the quality of the mom and child's life, but future generations as well."

The private party is being held at Phelps Grove Park from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on September 16th for clients of the Building Blocks program. Media are also invited to attend.

For more information, contact:

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